

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SY-05 SCCT-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 /077 W

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O 232355Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 710

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 3182

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: CDES, HO (CYPHER, MICHAEL J.)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DEATH OF FATHER CYPHER

REF: STATE 172314

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR TALKED WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER PINEDA ON JULY 22 REITERATING PREVIOUS EMBASSY REQUEST FOR FULL REPORT ON CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH OF FATHER CYPHER AND AGAIN EXPRESSING USGOV'S EXPECTATIONS

THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL BE SPEEDILY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

2. PINEDA EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET HIS GOVERNMENT OVER DEATH OF FATHER CYPHER AND PROMISED REPORT JULY 23.

3. AT 3:30 P.M. JULY 23, FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE RECEIVED WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS...WISHES TO CONVEY ITS SINCERE CONDOLENCES FOR THE DEATH OF THE REVEREND FATHER MICHAEL JEROME, WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS COUNTRY AS A PRIEST DURING WHICH TIME HE

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WON THE AFFECTION AND REGARD OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AWARE OF THE FEELINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONDURAS, CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE REGRETTABLE HAPPENINGS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OLANCHO ON JUNE 25, 1975, DURING WHICH THE REVEREND CYPHER WAS KILLED. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS OF HONDURAS THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS TO FIND THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE SAD EVENTS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, UPON RECEIVING THE FINAL REPORT FROM THE MILITARY COMMISSION, WILL BE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU OF ITS CONTENTS."

4. BY SEPARATE CABLE, THE EMBASSY IS REPORTING THE CONTENTS OF A GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE OF TODAY'S DATE WHICH CONTAINS A SUMMARY OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION'S REPORT.

5. DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM PINEDA ABOVE NOTE FROM FOREIGN OFFICE OBVIOUSLY FALLS SHORT OF THE KIND OF REPORT REQUESTED AND EXPECTED.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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